

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

ACDA-07 SAJ-01 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAL-01 DLOS-06

SIL-01 LAB-04 /100 W

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R 071823Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0254

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11447

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, UK, EEC, GW

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN PAYS A SHORT
VISIT TO BONN

BEGIN SUMMARY: BRITISH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN MET WITH
FEDERAL CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT FOR FOUR HOURS ON JUNE 30.
FOREIGN MINISTERS CROSSLAND AND GENSCHER ALSO TOOK PART
IN THE DISCUSSIONS. MAJOR TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED
DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE
RESULTS OF THE PUERTO-RICO ECONOMIC SUMMIT, BRITAIN'S
DESIRE FOR A FIFTY-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE AS WELL
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AS OTHER EC PROBLEMS. PRESS REPORTS CLAIMED THAT THE

TWO LEADERS DID NOT DISCUSS ANY BILATERAL PROBLEMS, FOR DISCUSSIONS ABOUT A NEW OFFSET AGREEMENT COVERING SOME OF THE STATIONING COSTS OF THE BRITISH ARMY ON THE RHINE HAD BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL THE FALL. IN FACT THE SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED, BUT NO PROGRESS WAS MADE. END SUMMARY.

1. MUCH OF THE DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE PRIVATELY BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS AND OUR USUAL FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED REPORTS OF WHAT TOOK PLACE. A BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT MOST OF THE DISCUSSIONS CONCERNED EC MATTERS. IT WAS THIS SAME BRITISH SOURCE WHO TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE THAT PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN HAD RAISED THE OFFSET QUESTION WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT BUT THAT NO PROGRESS ON THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN MADE.

2. OUR BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCE CONFIRMED GERMAN PRESS ACCOUNTS THAT MOST OF THE TIME WAS SPENT ON EC PROBLEMS. SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE SUBJECT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE QUESTION IS EXPECTED TO BE RESOLVED AT THE NEXT EUROPEAN SUMMIT SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12 AND 13 (BONN 11273). DISCUSSIONS ALSO TOOK PLACE ON DEVELOPING A JOINT EUROPEAN POSITION ON THE RAW MATERIALS QUESTION. BRITAIN ALSO MADE A SPECIAL PLEA FOR A FIFTY-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE BUT THE CHANCELLOR MADE NO COMMITMENT. THE FRG HAS BEEN URGING EUROPEAN AGREEMENT BE ACHIEVED PRIOR TO THE NEXT UN LAW OF THE SEAS CONFERENCE.

3. ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS OF THE FOUR-HOUR MEETING TOOK PLACE WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE TRADE UNION AND INDUSTRIAL LEADERS FROM THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN LOOKING AT CO-DETERMINATION AND A SPECIAL BRITISH COMMISSION HAS BEEN STUDYING THE SUBJECT HERE IN GERMANY. FRG EXPERIENCE WITH MITBESTIMMUNG IS OBVIOUSLY RELEVANT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 11447

4. PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT DESCRIBED THEIR DISCUSSIONS AS "VERY PROFITABLE, UNCONSTRAINED AND FRIENDLY." OBSERVERS NOTED THAT THEIR MEETING WAS ONE IN A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH IS TAKING PLACE AMONG EC LEADERS; OTHERS HAVE INCLUDED PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN'S MEETING WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING THE WEEK BEFORE AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S MEETING WITH GISCARD D'ESTAING THIS WEEK.

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5. COMMENT: THE ONE POSITIVE DECISION TO COME OUT OF THE CALLAGHAN-SCHMIDT MEETING WAS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS THAT THEY WOULD MEET REGULARLY EVERY FEW MONTHS. THIS FOLLOWS THE PATTERN OF THE GERMAN-FRENCH AGREEMENT WHEREBY THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR MEET AT LEAST TWICE YEARLY. PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE RENEGOTIATION QUESTION AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE ANTI-PATHY WHICH MANY EC LEADERS FELT FOR FORMER PRIME MINISTER WILSON, BRITAIN HAS NOT ENJOYED THE SAME CLOSE CONTACT WITH GERMAN AND FRENCH LEADERS AS GERMAN

AND FRENCH LEADERS HAVE HAD WITH EACH OTHER. THE CALLAGHAN-SCHMIDT MEETING (AND ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM PARIS AND LONDON THE EARLIER GISCARD-CALLAGHAN DISCUSSIONS) SEEM TO SUGGEST TO THE FRG THAT BRITAIN IS MOVING AWAY FROM ITS POSITON OF ODD-MAN-OUT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS MOUNTING CONCERN HERE, AFTER SCHMIDT'S MEETINGS WITH CALLAGHAN AND GISCARD, THAT THE SMALLER EC COUNTRIES WILL CLAIM THAT THERE IS AN FRG-UK-FRENCH "DIRECTORATE." SOURCES IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE CHANCELLERY HAVE TOLD US THAT THE GERMANS WILL BEND OVER BACKWARDS TO AVOID GIVING SUBSTANCE OR CREDIBILITY TO THESE CHARGES.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN11447
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760261-1173
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760785/aaaacwww.tel
Line Count: 183
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN PAYS A SHORT VISIT TO BONN
TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, UK, GE, EEC, (GENSCHER, HANS-DIETRICH), (SCHMIDT, HELMUT), (CALLAGHAN, JAMES), (CROSLAND, ANTHONY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006